Zhuchengceratops

Zhuchengceratops is a genus of extinct leptoceratopsid ceratopsian that lived during the Upper Cretaceous of modern-day China. It was first described in 2010, by Xu *et al.*, who created the binomial ***Zhuchengceratops inexpectus***. The name is derived from the location of Zhucheng, the Latinized-Greek *ceratops*, or "horned face", and the unexpected articulated nature of the holotype. The skeleton was found in the Wangshi Group, which is of Late Cretaceous age, and most fossils are only disarticulated bones of *Shantungosaurus*.

Zhuchengceratops shares may features with Leptoceratopsidae as well as other ceratopsian groups such as Ceratopsidae. The overall size of the taxon was similar to *Leptoceratops*, although slightly larger. *Zhuchengceratops* was analyzed to be in a group with *Leptoceratops* and *Udanoceratops*, although internal relationships of this triplet were unresolved.

Zhuchengceratops

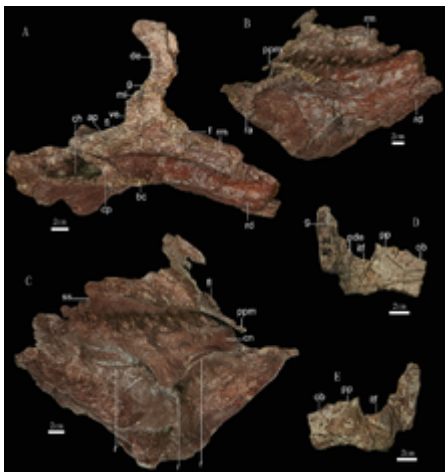
Temporal range: Upper Cretaceous, 70 Ma

Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN

Life restoration

Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Clade:	Dinosauria
Order:	†Ornithischia
Family:	†Leptoceratopsidae
Genus:	†*Zhuchengceratops* Xu *et al.*, 2010
Species:	†***Z. inexpectus***
Binomial name	
†***Zhuchengceratops inexpectus*** Xu *et al.*, 2010	

Discovery and naming



Fossil skull and mandible

Zhuchengceratops is a derived leptoceratopsid ceratopsian which lived during the Late Cretaceous period in what is now Kugou, Zhucheng County, China. It is known from a partial articulated skeleton including vertebrae, ribs, teeth, and parts of the skull and mandibles. The fossils were recovered from the Wangshi Group, of the Late Cretaceous.[1] This genus was named by Xing Xu, Kebai Wang, Xijin Zhao, Corwin Sullivan and Shuqing Chen in 2010, and the type species is *Zhuchengceratops inexpectus*. The genus name was chosen for the location of Zhucheng, where the holotype was found, and the Latinized-Greek *ceraptops*, meaning "horned face". They chose the species name *inexpectus* to refer to the unexpected discovery of the articulated skeleton.[1]

The recovered specimen of *Zhuchengceratops* likely represents an adult, and is slightly larger than most adults of the similar ceratopsian *Leptoceratops*, which was around 2 meters in length. *Zhuchengceratops* had a particularly massive and deep 50 cm-long mandible that is also thin transversely. This and a number of other autapomorphies unique to the genus lend it significance for increasing the morphological disparity and the taxonomic diversity of the Leptoceratopsidae. As the third leptoceratopsid from Asia, this find exhibits the coexistence and radiation of two closely related clades, whose differences in jaw and tooth adaptation may represent different feeding strategies.[1]

See also

- Timeline of ceratopsian research

References

1. Xing Xu; Kebai Wang; Xijin Zhao; Corwin Sullivan; Shuqing Chen (2010). "A New Leptoceratopsid (Ornithischia: Ceratopsia) from the Upper Cretaceous of Shandong, China and Its Implications for Neoceratopsian Evolution" (http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0013835). *PLoS ONE*. **5** (11): e13835. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0013835 (https://doi.org/10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0013835). PMC 2973951 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2973951). PMID 21079798 (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21079798).

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Zhuchengceratops&oldid=928088205"

This page was last edited on 26 November 2019, at 19:05 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.